

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing instant services in an Internet Protocol network, the method comprising:

provisioning a first communication session between a first user terminal and a predetermined network device by allocating at least one resource of the predetermined network device to the first communication session;

provisioning a second communication session between a second user terminal and the predetermined network device by allocating at least one resource of the predetermined network device to the second communication session;

identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request;

receiving the activation request to establish an active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal;

bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device.

2. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions to execute the method of claim 1.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first communication session comprises a first real-time transport protocol session, and the second communication session comprises a second real-time transport protocol session.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, prior to provisioning the first communication session, further comprising:

receiving a first registration request from a user associated with the first user terminal;  
authenticating the first user in accordance with a first user account for the user associated with the first user terminal;  
receiving a first subscription request from the user associated with the first user account, wherein the first subscription request comprises a request to subscribe to a first service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the first service comprises a multimedia service.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the multimedia service comprises an instant voice messaging service.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
receiving a first registration request from a user associated with the second user terminal;  
authenticating the user in accordance with a first user account for the user associated with the second user terminal;  
receiving a first subscription request from the user associated with the second user terminal, wherein the first subscription request comprises a request to subscribe to the first service using a first subscriber identification.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a second subscription request from the user associated with the second user terminal, wherein the second subscription request comprises a request to subscribe to the first service using a second subscriber identification;

provisioning a third communication session between the second user terminal and the predetermined network device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a first list of subscribers to the first user terminal, the first list of subscribers including subscriber identifications associated with active subscribers authorized to communicate with the user associated with the first user terminal; and

providing a second list of subscribers to the second user terminal, the second list of subscribers including subscriber identifications associated with active subscribers authorized to communicate with the user associated with the second user terminal.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user terminal comprises a signaling agent, and the step of receiving the request to establish an active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal comprises:

receiving a user input to establish the active communication session to the second user terminal;

sending the request to establish the active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal from the signaling agent to the predetermined network device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the signaling agent comprises a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) agent.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user terminal is associated with a virtual signaling agent, and the step of receiving the request to establish an active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal comprises:

receiving on the first user terminal a user input to establish the active communication session to the second user terminal;

sending to the virtual signaling agent a request to establish the active communication session;

sending from the virtual signaling agent to the predetermined network device the request to establish the active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a request to terminate the active communication session between the first user terminal and the second user terminal; and

un-bridging the first communication session from the second communication session on the predetermined network device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the first communication session and the second communication session comprises setting up the first and second communication sessions between the first and second user terminals and the predetermined network device prior to receiving the receiving the activation request.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user terminal is associated with a first predetermined device and the second user terminal is associated with a second predetermined device, and wherein the first communication session is provisioned between the first user terminal and the first predetermined device, and the second communication session is provisioned between the second user terminal and the second predetermined device, and the step of bridging the first communication session to the second communication session comprises bridging the sessions via the first predetermined device and the second predetermined device.

Claims 16-35 are withdrawn without prejudice.